Publication of Calcutta Telephone Directory

1185. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of special problems which lead to delays in the publication of the Calcutta Telephone Directory while no such delay takes place in the case of the directories for the other metropolitan cities;

(b) the measures under way to print the next issue of the Calcutta Telephone Directory; and

(c) the date by which the directory is expected to be released?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BEN1 PRASAD VARMA): (a) Several attempts were made by calling open tenders for publication of Calcutta Telephones Directory but no bids were received from prospective contractors.

(b) Action has been initiated to print 1997 issue of Calcutta Telephone Directory departmentally.

(c) In the last quarter of 1997.

Shifting of Telephone Exchange to New Building at Ayaskunnam in Kerala

1186. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the new building for Ayaskunnam Telephone Exchange in Kottayam district, Kerala has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the office is going to be shifted to the new building;

(c) by when the exchange is likely to be shifted in the new building;

(d) whether the department make efforts to give new connections to the pending applicants; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the strong resentment among the public against shifting the office?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Within two months after provision of power supply connection by Kerala State Electricity Board Authorities, who have already commenced the work.

(d) Yes, Sir,

(e) An office of Junior Telecom officer is also functioning in the existing building and there is no resentment among the public against shifting the same.

Modernisation of telegraph service in Punjab

1187. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any steps for the modernisation of telegraph services in Punjab;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof;

(c) whether any budgetary allocations have been made for the purpose during the current financial year; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Govern ment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The districtwise detailed information is placed at statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) No budgetary allocations have been made for the current financial year since 12 Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), 108 Electronic Key Boards (EKBs) 2 Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCs) & 30 Formatted Terminals (FTs) are already procured and allotted as per Annexure.